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SPAWN

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6 NOV
DIGITAL EDITION



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COMICS PRESENTS:

"PAYBACK"

PART 1



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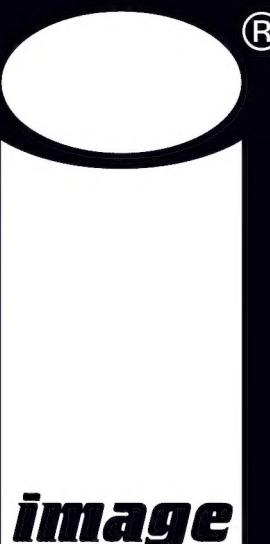
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Dedicated to:
STAN LEE

FOR IMAGE COMICS
LARRY MARDER - exec. director **TONY LOBITO** - publisher

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image

SICILY.

THE MORNING ROUTINES ARE INTERRUPTED BY AN UNSCHEDULED DEMOLITION. HOWEVER, IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO THIS ITALIAN ISLAND'S BUSINESS DISTRICT. IN FACT, ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WERE GIVEN NEARLY AN HOUR'S NOTICE.

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: MESS WITH THE MAFIA AND THEY'LL MESS YOU UP.



THE MILITARY HAS BEEN CALLED, OF COURSE, BUT THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO BE DONE. A MULTINATIONAL FIRM HAD REFUSED TO COOPERATE ON ALL LEVELS, SO THE CRIME CARTEL DECIDED TO DO SOME LEVELLING OF ITS OWN.

ALL THEY NEEDED WAS THEIR
ONE-MAN WRECKING CREW...

I LOVE
THIS JOB.

OVERT-KILL!

IN WHISPERED VOICES,
SOME CALL HIM
"OVERKILL." IT HAS
TO DO WITH HIS TEN-
DENCY TO GO BEYOND
THE NECESSARY MEANS.

AS HE EMERGES, WRAITH-LIKE FROM THE FLAMES AND DESTRUCTION, HIS NAME BECOMES AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

Voom

HE'S DONE HIS JOB.
TIME NOW TO GO HOME.

HE'S STILL COMING--

FIRE!

THE ARMY HAS DEALT WITH OVERT-KILL IN THE PAST. THAT'S WHY THEY'VE ARRIVED WITH ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO ENGAGE AN ENEMY BATTALION. TODAY'S ENGAGEMENT, THOUGH, IS ALSO A FEW SANDWICHES SHORT OF A PICNIC. OVERT-KILL CANNOT BE DAMAGED.

K-TING

K-TING

THE MESSAGE FINALLY SINKS IN.

NOW WHAT?!

TRY
RUNNING!!

TOO SLOW.

TO THE MAFIA,
THIS IS THE PER-
FECT EMPLOYEE.
ONE THAT DOES
HIS JOB WITH
ENTHUSIASM.

SPAK SPAK

SPAK

SERVICE
WITH A
SMILE.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU
ASK FROM A HIT-MAN?

GET OUT OF
HERE BEFORE
I GET
MAD!

KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH

HURRY! GET THE CANNON IN POSITION!

I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO PUT THIS INTO ACTION--

--BUT HE'S LEFT ME NO CHOICE!

SERGEANT ICO, THAT THING CAN WIPE OUT TWO CITY BLOCKS! BETTER HIT HIM THE FIRST TIME!

THE POINT BECOMES MOOT AS OVERT-KILL LEAPS HIGH INTO THE AIR AND COMES CRASHING DOWN-- DIRECTLY ON THE KP-211AF4 SPECIAL...

...A.K.A. THE SILVER GOD.

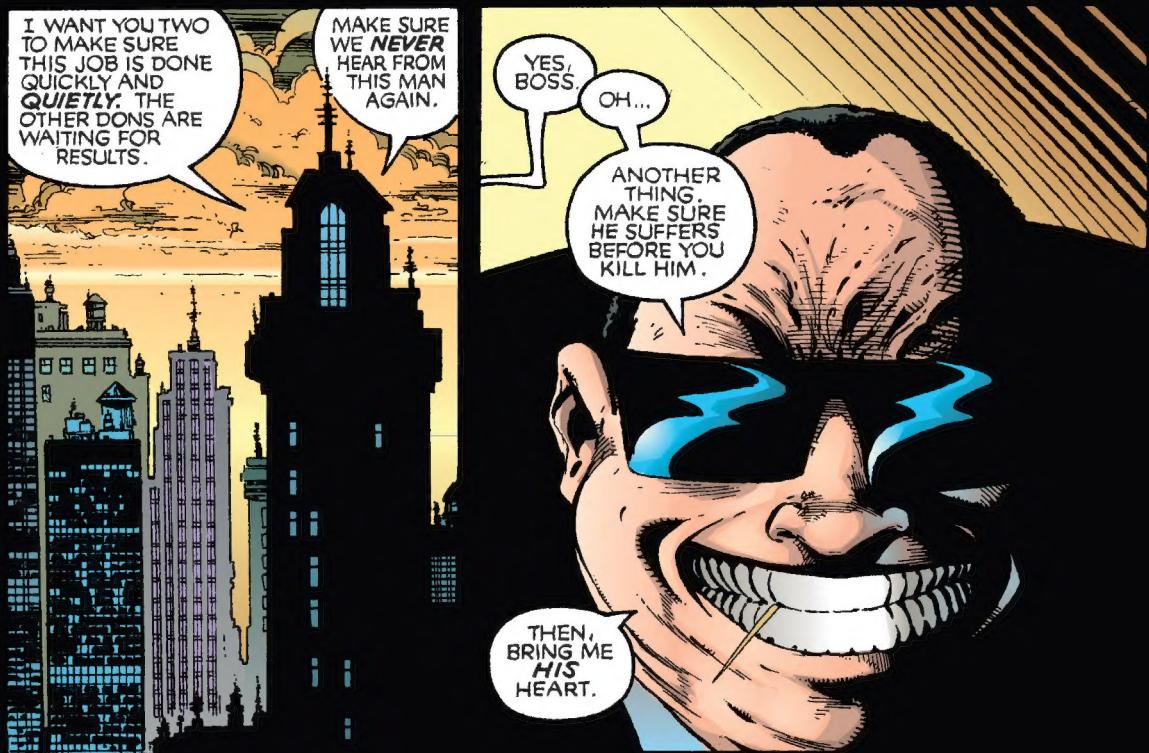
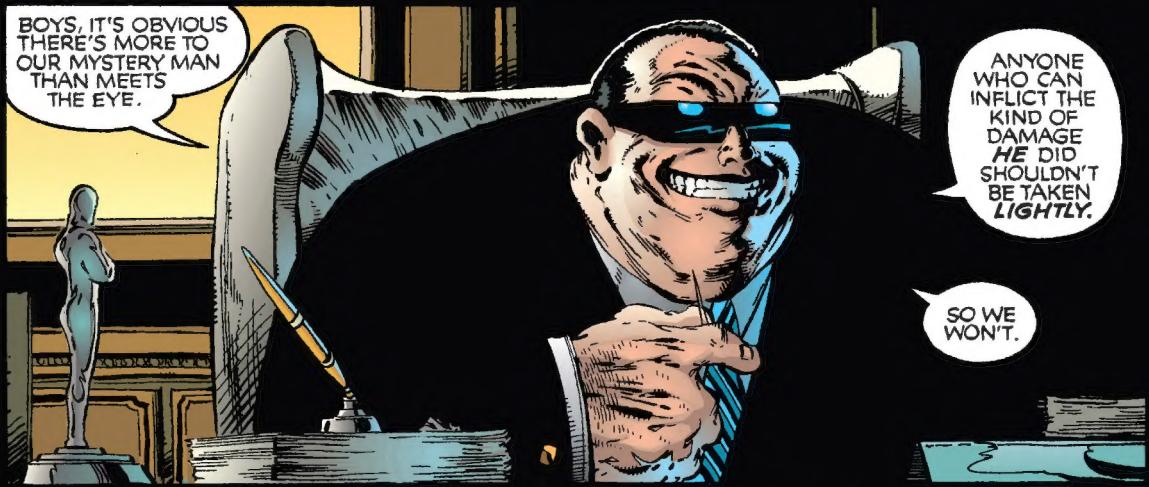
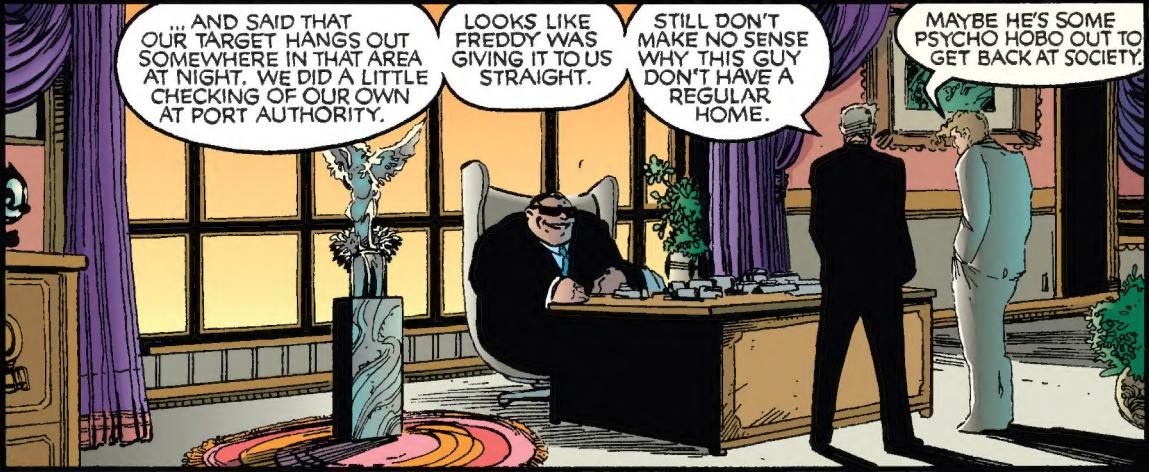
THERE ARE REASONS WHY THE MAFIA IS ABLE TO HOLD ONTO POWER.



BANG

I'M SURE HE'LL SEND FLOWERS.





YO!

AL,
WHY YOU
ALWAYS
SITTING
BY YOURSELF?
WE DISEASED
OR SOMETHIN'?

C'MON, MAN.

WE AINT
HERE TO GETCHA.
WE'RE JUST
HERE.

WE DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOU'RE RUNNIN'
FROM--!

HELL, WE ALL GOT
SECRETS. I GOT STORIES
THAT'D CHILL YOUR BLOOD--
BUT IT DON'T DO NO GOOD
TO KEEP REHASHING THE
PAST. SURVIVING'S
WHAT WE'RE ABOUT.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME,
WE CAN GIVE EACH OTHER
COMPANY. FOR MOST OF
US, THAT'S ALL WE GOT.
WE DON'T CARE WHERE YA
BEEN OR HOW YA GOT
THERE ...

...OR EVEN
WHY YOU
WEAR THAT
OUTFIT.

GENTLE-
MEN...

IF YOU
DON'T MIND,
I'D LIKE TO
SHARE A
STORY WITH
YOU...

INCREDIBLE.

EXTENDING THEIR TRUST TO
AN INTRUDER. HOW BASIC
THEIR LIVES HAVE BECOME.
WARMTH. FOOD. COMPANION-
SHIP. THEY WON'T ALLOW MY
OR ANYONE'S SELF-PITY IN
THEIR DOMAIN. THIS ALLEY-
WAY IS THEIR CASTLE.

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS LEARN
TO LIVE BY THEIR RULES.

8:09:2

IT'S A STORY THAT TIES DIRECTLY INTO A SMALL FAMILY DWELLING NESTLED AMONG THE CLASSIC TRAPPINGS OF SUBURBIA, U.S.A. THE LOCATION IS QUEENS; THE OCCUPANTS ARE QUITE TYPICAL:

A MOTHER, A FATHER AND A BABY.

THE LOVE SHARED BY THESE THREE HELPS KEEP THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY TIGHTLY WOVEN. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS JOY IS BORN OF TRAGEDY.

THAT TRAGEDY HAD A NAME:
AL SIMMONS,
A.K.A. SPAWN.

HIS WIDOW, WANDA BLAKE, HAS BELIEVED HIM TO BE DEAD FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS. BUT, WHILE SHE WAS SHATTERED BY AL'S UNTIMELY DEATH, SHE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD. IT WAS THIS KIND OF COURAGE THAT CAUSED AL TO FALL HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH HER.

A WHOLE LOT OF THAT LOVE COMES FROM CYAN, HER BABY DAUGHTER-- THOUGH AT FIFTEEN MONTHS SHE IS HARDLY AN INFANT ANY LONGER.

RUNNING! SCREAMING! BANGING! LONG PERIODS OF SILENCE ARE A THING OF THE PAST...

... AND HER NEW HUSBAND.

NOT ONLY IS TERRY FITZGERALD A GOOD FATHER AND CARING SPOUSE, BUT HE WAS THE BEST FRIEND OF AL SIMMONS. IF ANYONE COULD TAKE CARE OF WANDA BETTER THAN AL, IT WOULD BE TERRY.

THIS MAKES THE SITUATION EVEN MORE TRAGIC. SHOULD AL INTRUDE, OR LEAVE WANDA TO LIVE HER NEW LIFE IN PEACE?

READY?
?

NOW SHE IS REMARRIED, AND LOVE IS ONCE AGAIN PART OF HER LIFE.

... AND WANDA WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING. THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL, A CHILD, HAS FINALLY BEEN GIVEN TO HER...

HERE WE GO!

NEITHER CHOICE WILL BRING HAPPINESS TO ALL INVOLVED. UNTIL OUR HERO REACHES A DECISION, HE'LL BE HAUNTED BY THIS "NO-WIN" SITUATION THAT'S SLOWLY TEARING HIM APART.



IN A GHETTO OF
DISPLACED
HUMANITY BEHIND
PORT AUTHORITY
BUS TERMINAL...

THIS IS GOING
GREAT. WE'VE LEFT
A TRAIL EVEN A
BLIND MAN
COULD FOLLOW.

DON'T KNOW
WHY THIS HERO'S
SO ATTACHED TO
THESE BUMS ANY-
WAYS. GUESS HE LIKES
HANGING AROUND CRAP,
Y'KNOW WHAT I
MEAN?

EXCUSE
ME, LOSER.
MAY I HAVE A
WORD WITH
YOU?

wha...
?

OH!
A SMART-
ASS, HUH?!

SPAT!

Hee hee
hee

THIS IS A
RIOT! A
COUPLE MORE
AND I GUESS
WE CAN SIT
BACK AND WAIT
FOR THE CAPE
DUDE TO
SHOW.

HOW
MANY
IS THIS
NOW?
FOUR?

FIVE.

BUT WHO'S
COUNTING?

I'M GLAD YOU CAN LAUGH AT THIS, TOMMY. I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE ANY OF THIS PERSONALLY.

Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YUP.

'CAUSE WHO WANTS TO TAKE THEIR WORK WITH THEM. I'D RATHER WATCH FOOTBALL.

SUCK DOWN A FEW BEERS. RELAX. Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YUP.

SO WE'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF THIS HIT TONIGHT. REPORT BACK TO THE BOSS ON A JOB WELL DONE, THEN GO FIND US A COUPLE OF BROADS.

YOU UP FOR IT?

YUP.

YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD! IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, COWARD. NOW I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S AFTER ME...

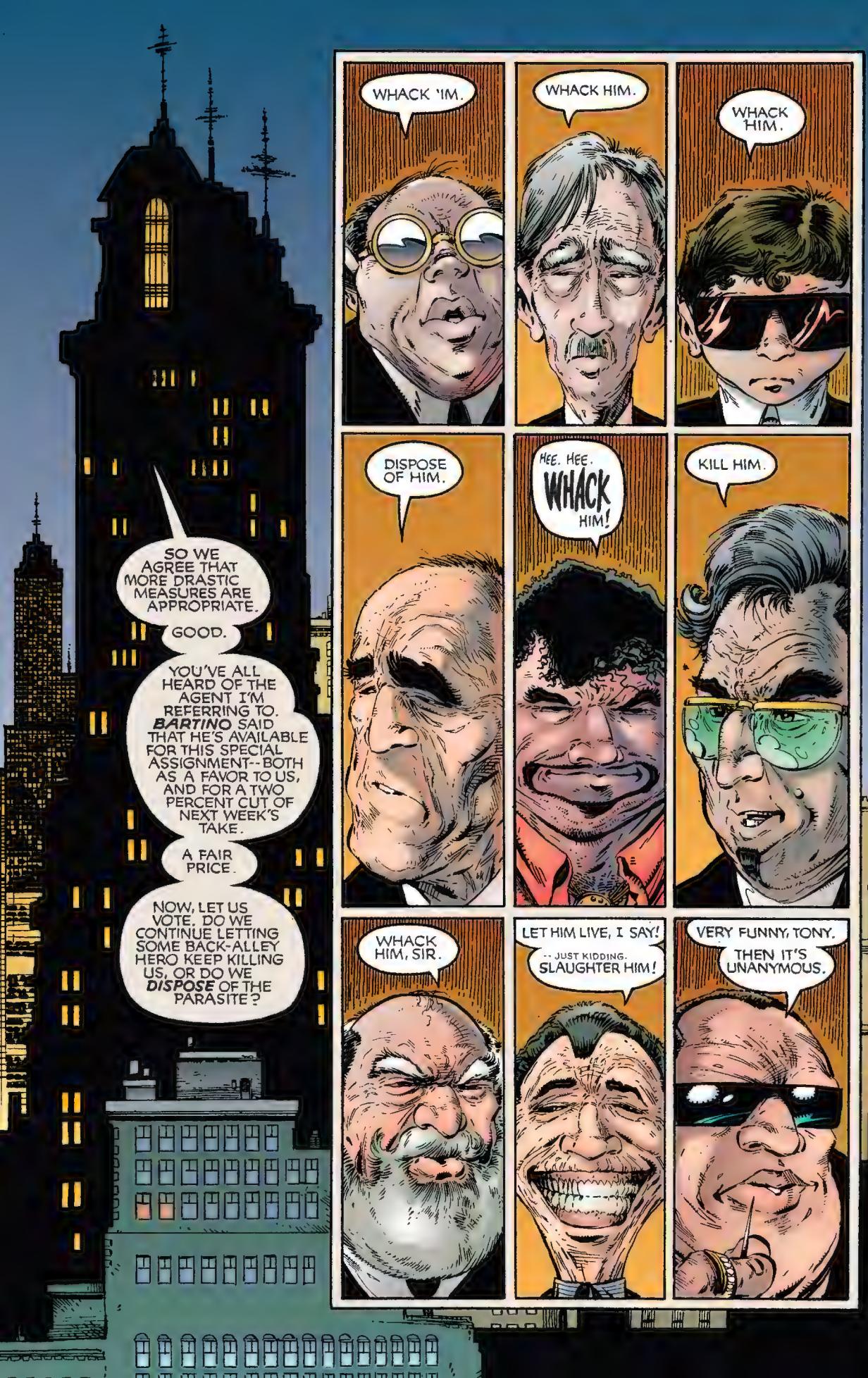
...AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY?!

Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

The New York Times

ALLEY LITTERED WITH BODIES

TWO KNOWN FELONS AMONG THE CORPSES





NO SENSE ANY OF US TELLING HIM OTHERWISE.

BESIDES, HE SHOULD BE ON HIS WAY UP ANYWAY.

ha.



ADDED TO THAT REQUEST IS THE BROKEN BODY OF ANOTHER HOMELESS VICTIM. SPAWN HAS NEVER MET THIS VAGRANT, AND IS NOT HAPPY THAT ALL THE STREET PEOPLE ARE UNDER THREAT BY IMPLIED ASSOCIATION.

SCUMBAG.

ALWAYS PREYING ON THE WEAK.

HE INTENDS TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY.

LET'S SEE HOW YOU DEAL WITH DEATH WARMED OVER...

THOUGH HE KNOWS HE'S NO ACTOR, AL REALIZES HIS COSTUME LENDS AN ELEMENT OF FEARSOMENESS. IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT HE'LL TAKE IT.

SHOW YOURSELF... IF YOU DARE.

HAI!

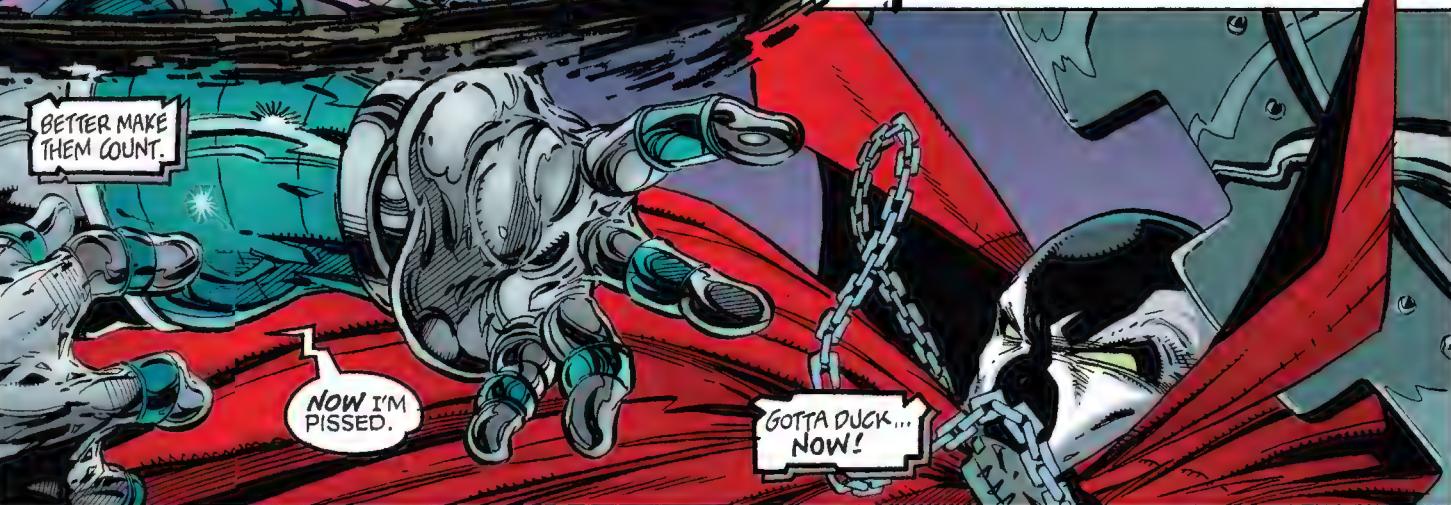
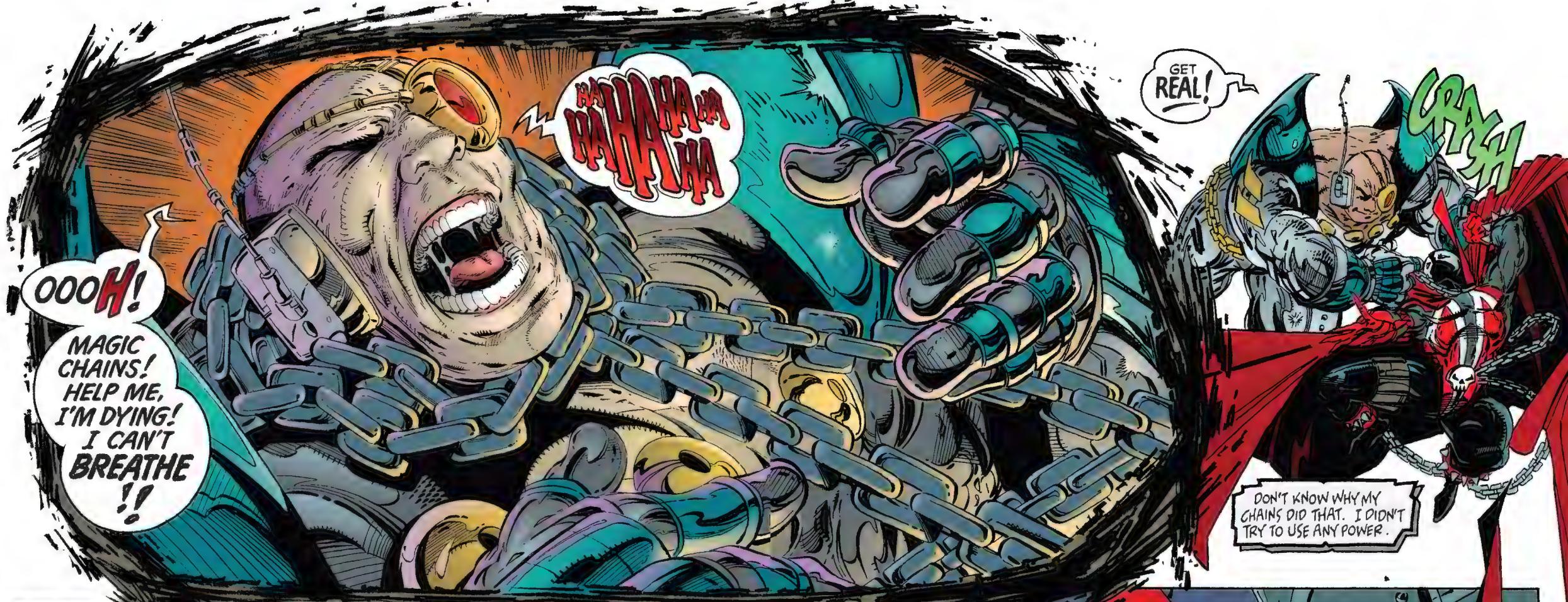
GOOD ONE, AMERICAN!

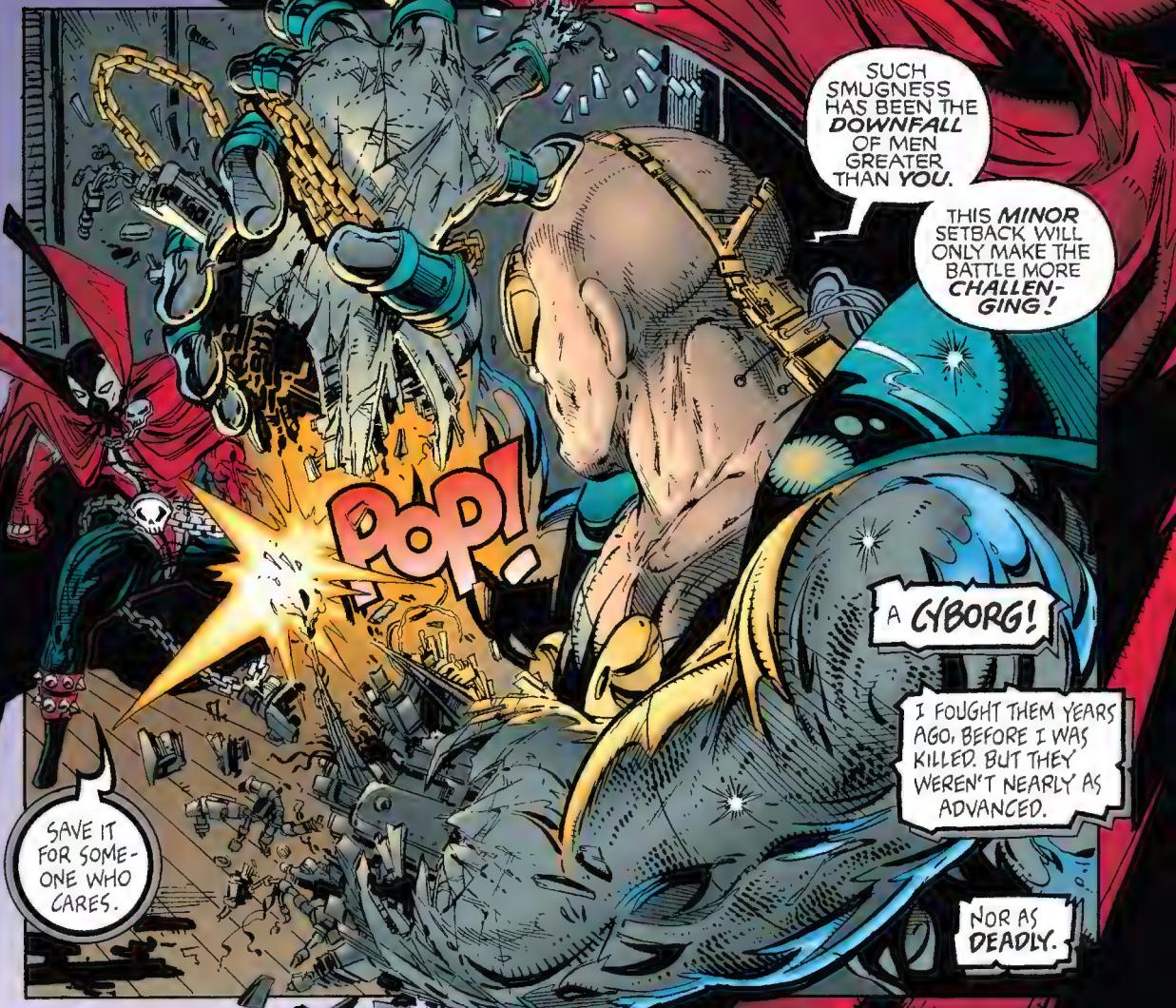
KRAK

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU WEREN'T AFRAID TO FACE ME!

THAT'S ADMIRABLE.







YOU ARE
TOO SLOW, MY
FRIEND!

SWAK-

YOUR GOVERNMENT
MUST TRULY BE
DESPERATE, TO HAVE
MADE YOU ONE OF THEIR
YOUNGBLOOD!

WHAT'S HE
TALKING
ABOUT?

COME
ON! GET
UP!

I HAVE SEEN
NO EVIDENCE OF
YOU HAVING THE POWER
TO RIP MEN'S HEARTS
OUT! SHOW ME
YOUR SKILLS!

MAKE MY
TRIP TO
AMERICA
WORTH IT!

GLK

COME ON!
FIGHT!

FIGHT!!

NO.

I SAID...

NO.

DO
YOU
HEAR
ME?

FIGHT!

SHOW
ME YOUR
POWER!
SHOW ME
YOUR
STRENGTH
!!

SINCE YOU
WON'T FIGHT
FOR YOUR COUNTRY,
YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ELSE...

LET'S SEE
WHAT KIND
OF HEROES
THE U.S.
MAKES!

BAH!

DIE!





I'M
BETTER
THAN
THAT!

U.S. ARMY



EMPIRE

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